3rd November 1931]

Forest Panchayats

Powers of forest panchayats to compound forest offences.

* 587 *Q.*—Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many forest panchayats in the Presidency have power to compound forest offences;

(*b*) how many forest panchayats have not the power to compound forest offences; and

(*c*) whether there is a proposal before Government to empower all the forest panchayats to compound forest offences?

A.—(*a*) 29.

(*b*) 965.

(*c*) No.

Mr. M. A. MANIKKAVELU NAYAKAR:—" May I know, with reference to the answer to clause (*b*), for what reasons certain panchayats are not empowered to compound offences? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—" The panchayats are empowered to compound offences, only when the local officers consider that it is safe to entrust those powers to them; and that in turn depends on the manner in which those panchayats discharge their duties."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know whether it is a fact that the Government are considering a proposal to abolish the Forest Panchayat Officer? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED:—" May I know what saving they are going to effect by means of retrenchment in the Forest Panchayat department? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—" I must ask for notice of the question. I do not know how that question arises under this question."

Irrigation

The Palar Committee.

* 588 *Q.*—Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the information called for by the Palar Committee has been received and if so, when it is proposed to resume the work of the Committee?

A.—The information has not yet been received.

Mr. V. M. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—" Is it proposed to resume the work of the Palar Committee in the near future, Sir? "

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—" That we will consider when we get the information that has been called for."